Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled) An intraluminal medical device comprising multiple, independent, self-expanding stent segments, each stent segment including a plurality of longitudinal struts, a plurality of loops connecting adjacent struts, at least one bridging element and at least one receptacle, wherein the at least one bridging element of one or more of the stent segments is configured to be releasably engaged with the at least one receptacle on an adjacent stent segment.

2. (Cancelled) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one bridging element comprises an elongate member extending from one of the plurality of loops and having a free end with a mating protrusion.

3. (Cancelled) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 2, wherein the at least one receptacle is configured as a space between adjacent longitudinal struts and defines a cavity for the elongate member and mating protrusion.

4. (Cancelled) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 3, wherein the cavity and the mating protrusion have a substantially oval shape.

5. (Cancelled) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 4, wherein the self-expanding stent segments comprise a superelastic alloy.

6. (Cancelled) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 5, wherein the superelastic alloy comprises from about fifty percent to about sixty percent Nickel and the remainder titanium.

7. (Cancelled) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of struts and the plurality of loops form a substantially S-shaped configuration.

8. (Cancelled) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 1, further comprising one or more radiopaque markers.

9. (Cancelled) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 8, wherein the one or more markers are incorporated into the mating protrusion.

10. (Currently Amended) An intraluminal medical device having an unexpanded configuration and an expanded configuration comprising ~~one or more~~ multiple tubular stent segments, each tubular stent segment including a plurality of longitudinal struts, a plurality of loops connecting adjacent longitudinal struts, the plurality of longitudinal struts being connected on opposite ends by the loops to form a substantially S-shape configuration, and one or more bridging elements extending from one or more apeces ~~of an apex~~ of the plurality of loops, the one or more bridging elements comprising substantially hour-glass shape sections and substantially flat ends, the one or more bridging elements extending from the apeces of the plurality of loops on adjacent tubular stent segments such that the substantially hour-glass shape sections of two adjacent bridging elements on the same tubular stent segment form a locking mechanism for a bridging element on an adjacent tubular stent segment when ~~first and second sections configured to create an interlocking mechanism between adjacent tubular stent segments when~~ the intraluminal

medical device is in the unexpanded configuration~~, the second sections, having a substantially flat surface in proximity to a loop on an adjacent stent segment~~.

11. (New) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 10, wherein the one or more tubular stent segments comprise a superelastic alloy.

12. (New) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 11, wherein the superelastic alloy comprises from about fifty percent to about sixty percent nickel and the remainder titanium.

13. (New) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 11, further comprises one or more radiopaque markers.

14. (New) The intraluminal medical device according to Claim 13, wherein the one or more radiopaque markers are incorporated in the one or more bridging elements.